



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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GLENN T. SUDDABY, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announces that an indictment unsealed today in United States District Court charges sixteen (16) persons with being members of and conducting criminal activity through, a criminal organization know as the Elk Block Gang. The Indictment alleges that the gang has operated within the City of Syracuse from at least 1995 through the present.¹ The defendants were charged with conspiring to exploit their membership in the Elk Block Gang to engage in a pattern of racketeering activity which included multiple acts of drug trafficking, murder, and witness tampering. Those defendants include:

NAME	STREET NAME	AGE	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
Billy J. Applins	Gee, Billy Pringle	35	145 St. Louis Avenue Syracuse, New York
James Kelly	Boom	28	1707 Caleb Avenue Syracuse, New York
Nathan Speights	The Mole	28	Previously incarcerated
Dennis Jones (Still at large)	DenNew York Man	32	2108 Midland Avenue, Apt. 1 Syracuse, New York
Ismail Pierce (Still at large)	Bird, Rocket, Holiday	23	104 Elk Street Syracuse, New York
Jerrawn Thomas	Piper, Jerrod	23	322 Jasper Street, 2 nd Fl. Syracuse, New York
Ronnie Parnell	Slick	22	Previously incarcerated

¹ The allegations contained in the Indictment are mere accusations; and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

NAME	STREET NAME	AGE	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
Joseph Derby	Bird, Dirt	27	338 Primrose Avenue, Apt. 1F Syracuse, New York
William Robinson	Google, Googoo	23	738 W. Onondaga Street, Apt. 2 Syracuse, New York
Charmish Singletary	Meechie, Sly	28	Previously incarcerated
Lonnie Singletary	LA	26	Previously incarcerated
Gregory Griffin	Meeshack	20	Previously incarcerated
Gregory Thomas	Little Earl	22	Previously incarcerated
Andre Applins	AJ	21	121 Fenton Street Syracuse, New York
Tyler Willis	Trouble T	20	316 W. Pleasant Avenue Syracuse, New York
Skyler Willis (Still at large)	Sky	20	316 W. Pleasant Avenue Syracuse, New York

The indictment further alleges that members of the Elk Block Gang: (1) maintain a specific geographic territory within the City of Syracuse in which only gang members can sell crack cocaine; (2) protect that exclusive crack distribution territory with violence if necessary; (3) obtain crack cocaine from suppliers in New York City; (4) project a very violent attitude and respond to violence with violence in order to preserve their stature in the gang community; (5) use hand signs and wear tattoos to signify their gang membership; (6) use criteria such as willingness to use violence, ability to sell crack, and familial connections to determine membership; and (7) routinely carry firearms in connection with their gang activity.

If convicted, each defendant faces up to twenty (20) years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Law enforcement authorities arrested seven defendants at various locations in and around Syracuse early this morning. Six defendants were previously incarcerated. Twelve defendants began appearing before a United States Magistrate Judge at 1:30 p.m. today for initial appearances. Three defendants—Ismail Pierce, Dennis Jones, and Skyler Willis remain at large. **Anyone with information regarding the three fugitives are asked to contact the Central New York Fugitive Task Force at (315) 448-0442.**

Searches were conducted by the authorities at eight locations in the City of Syracuse this morning. Among the evidence seized included two handguns (one of which was previously stolen); quantities of crack cocaine and marijuana; quantities of cash totaling approximately \$5,000; a bullet-proof vest; digital scales; packaging materials for controlled substances; and photographs and other evidence of gang affiliation.

This prosecution resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (Syracuse Office); the Syracuse

Police Department; and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. Other agencies participating in today's operation include the U.S. Marshal's Service, the New York State Police, and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. U.S. Attorney Suddaby; Syracuse Police Department Chief, Gary Miguel; and Onondaga County Sheriff, Kevin Walsh all praised the outstanding cooperative efforts of the federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies who participated in this investigation and prosecution. U.S. Attorney Suddaby noted that his Office will continue to work closely with the local Gang Task Forces and the law enforcement participants in Project Safe Neighborhoods and Operation IMPACT to investigate and prosecute gangs which engage in gun violence, narcotics trafficking, and other criminal activity throughout the Northern District of New York.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John M. Katko. Further questions or inquiries may be directed to United States Attorney Glenn T. Suddaby at (315) 448-0672.

END OF NEWS RELEASE
